

World Court Project to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

A global citizens' coalition working for good-faith implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligation upheld by the International Court of Justice



International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms;
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War;
International Peace Bureau; World Court Project UK; Abolition 2000 Europe;
Western States Legal Foundation; International Law Campaign;
Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy; Pax Christi International;
International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility.



In 1996 the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the highest court in the world, confirmed that all states are legally obliged to pursue negotiations **in good faith** on nuclear disarmament.



“Good Faith” means negotiating sincerely and flexibly to achieve the desired result - global nuclear disarmament. The objective should be pursued consistently with real political will. The conclusion should be reached with all deliberate speed and the parties must avoid policies which contradict the very purpose of the negotiations.



How are the nuclear-armed states measuring up to the Good Faith Obligation? Not very well it seems. Instead they:

- aim to keep their nuclear weapons indefinitely,
- maintain or expand the role of nuclear weapons,
- reject stringent verification of nuclear arms reductions,
- fail to make all reductions irreversible,
- refuse even to begin nuclear disarmament negotiations.



Therefore we are planning to ask the judges whether the nuclear states are complying with their Good Faith obligation and to explain what compliance would require. We believe this will bring more legal pressure on the minority of states with nuclear weapons to keep their promise to work towards a world free from the menace of nuclear weapons.



This will be an exciting project; and a demanding one. It will need the support of citizens worldwide to engage civil society,



Yes, I would like to be kept in touch with the World Court Project

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